

09/921240

08/02/01

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely displaying network configuration information for a first network that comprises at least one permanent virtual connection, wherein the permanent virtual connection has an endpoint associated with an assigned identifier and wherein a network management system communicates with the first network to store the assigned identifier, the system comprising:

a remote access module, in communication with the network management system over a network connection via a second network to obtain the assigned identifier, and for remotely displaying all of the assigned identifiers associated with all the permanent virtual connections of a port over an external third network to a web client, wherein the network management system contains the assigned identifiers stored prior to the ~~remote access module~~ web client communicating for the assigned identifiers; and,

a VPN, in communication with both the remote access module and the web client wherein the VPN interconnects the web client using encrypted traffic sent via tunneling over the internet.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the remote access module includes:

a server device for communicating with a client device and for communicating with the network management system; and

a network management module, for communicating with the network management system via the server device, for displaying the assigned identifier over the external third network.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the network management module includes a web site.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the web site includes a data link connection identifier query web page for inputting an identifier query of the network management system.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the identifier query includes a port name.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the web site includes a identifier search results web page for communicating the results of the identifier query.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the identifier search results web page is configured to display source and destination configuration information for the port.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the network is a frame relay network and wherein a network topology is selected from the group consisting of full mesh, partial mesh and ring.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the network management module communicates with the network management system over a peer-to-peer network.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for provisioning a data link connection identifier in a network upon a request from a browser wherein the network comprises at least one permanent virtual connection, and wherein the virtual connection has an endpoint associated with an identifier, the method comprising:

connecting a network management system to the first network, wherein the network management system stores the identifier prior to the request from the browser;

connecting a network management module to the network management system via a second network to obtain the identifier;

wherein the network management module is capable of remotely displaying the identifier over an external third network;

querying the network management system with the network management module over the second network;

displaying the identifier in a web page over the external third network using the network management module in response to the browser request, wherein the request contains at least one of a logical and physical port name, wherein further the web page comprises identifier information under nine column headings including at least "Source Switch", "Source Logical Port Name", "Source DLCI", "Source Service Type", "Destination Switch", "Destination Port", "Destination DLCI", "Destination Service Type" and a "Committed Information Rate"; and

provisioning a unique identifier for a new permanent virtual connection manually by a service technician, wherein the unique identifier differs from the displayed identifier.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein connecting a network management module includes connecting the network management system using a client-server architecture.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein querying includes querying the network management system with a client device.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for provisioning an identifier to be associated with an endpoint of a new virtual connection for a switch in a first network in communication with a network management system for storing switch identifiers, the system comprising:
means for the network management system to collect switch identifiers in-band over the first network and from an out of band network using a network management protocol;

means for querying the network management system with a network management module over a second network to obtain the existing switch identifiers, wherein the existing switch identifiers were stored by the network management system prior to the query;

means for displaying the existing switch identifiers over an external third network using the network management module, wherein the network management module is a web site; and

means for manually provisioning a unique identifier for a new virtual connection

for the switch, wherein the unique identifier differs from the displayed switch identifiers.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising means for connecting the network management module using a client-server architecture.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein means for querying includes means for querying the network management system with a client device.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

connecting a network management module to a network management system that stores identifiers associated with endpoints of virtual connections of a first network over a second network to obtain the identifiers, wherein the network management module is capable of remotely displaying the identifiers in a web page over an external third network in response to a browser request;

querying the network management system with the network management module over the second network for a list of identifiers related to a switch in the first network, wherein the identifiers were stored by the network management system prior to the step of querying;

displaying the list of identifiers over the external third network using the network management module; and

provisioning a unique identifier for a new virtual connection manually by a service technician, wherein the unique identifier differs from the displayed list of identifiers.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the network is a frame relay network and wherein the identifier is a data link connection identifier (DLCI).

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the virtual connection is a

virtual circuit.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the virtual circuit is a permanent virtual circuit.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the network is a frame relay network, wherein the identifier is a data link connection identifier (DLCI), and wherein the virtual connection is a virtual circuit.